



## September 2022 WELLOW & SHERFIELD ENGLISH Parish Newsletter



### Letter from the Area Dean

After the Summer Holidays, we go back to School and, for some, work. We start a new year in our Schools. I am sure that everyone will settle in quickly whether in a new class or starting school for the first time – all of our schools are very welcoming! Do give a thought (and a prayer) to all of those in school, college or university (staff and students).

It may be that you haven't been to Church in a while and are thinking of going back. We hope that, if you come to one of

the services in one of the churches in our Deanery, you will be made welcome – we are all quite friendly!

Harvest will start to be celebrated in September – do look out for local Harvest Suppers and Services, this month and next.

*Your Area Dean, James*

Revd James Pitkin - [romseyareadean@gmail.com](mailto:romseyareadean@gmail.com)

### Letters from Churchwardens

#### St Margaret's, East with West Wellow

The summer months have been busy for St Margaret's, particularly with Open Gardens at the end of July and then the Flower Festival coming up at the end of August. We had another working morning in the churchyard. The son of a clergyman who came along to help said he was impressed by how many folk turned up. In his father's parish, churchyard care events are normally left to the vicar, his son and one other! Thank you to all who came to help us in Wellow.

We are indebted to a hardworking and committed team here at St Margaret's, who organise our Tuesday lunch club and Thursday coffee morning in the Church Rooms. Our members also set up (in the 1970s) – and still support – the original Monday Lunch Club and the Wellow Help Group who provide transport for elderly villagers with medical appointments. This all continues to keep our church where it has been throughout the ages, at the centre of village life.

At the same time we remain grateful to the faithful visiting priests from the "Diocesan Registry" who each bring their own perspective on the Christian faith, along with our own choir and "team" of organists, without whom worship would not be so valued. My thanks to all who do so much for us.

Maybe soon we will get a vicar again – or at least a House for Duty priest. I was criticised when I said a few months ago that we were "marking time"! Just think of the progress we could make once the vicarage is properly occupied again.

**Late news:** Winchester Diocese has now formally proposed that Wellow and Sherfield Benefice should join with the Thorngate Benefice and that the Revd James Pitkin should become Vicar of Wellow with an assistant priest in the Wellow Vicarage. Your PCC will agree a formal response at its meeting on 13th September. Please let us have your views, but also feel free to send your own representations to the Church Commissioners. This is now the opportunity for all residents of the parish to become involved in this public consultation. **See masthead – and details overleaf.**

The PCC appreciates the difficult financial position of the Diocese that has prompted this proposal. We are grateful for their response to concerns we have already expressed: for example the Diocese has agreed to a House for Duty priest in Wellow, with specific responsibility for this parish.

Roy Perry, St Margaret's Churchwarden

#### St Leonard's, Sherfield English

Were it not for the current water shortage, I would be writing this with my feet firmly in a cold bucket of water, trying to counteract the heat of the sun. I hope by the time you read this the temperatures will have cooled a bit and hopefully we will have seen some rain. The church is a lovely place to be in summer as the thick walls give it a welcome coolness, while the churchyard positively sings with a chorus of crickets and grasshoppers. Following the recent laying of a path around the church there is now a long bench at the front, which will hopefully provide a place for rest and contemplation. We are extremely grateful for the support of Councillor Nick Adams-King that has enabled the bench to be sited. As ever, the older parts of the churchyard have been left unmown to encourage the wildlife so please do feel free to visit and stop to watch the world go by.

On the last Sunday of July we were pleased to welcome our friends from Wellow Wood Chapel for a joint morning service. Traditionally we meet together whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month (we hope to join their service on 30th October), and it is always a pleasure to share our worship.

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to our former lay reader, Colin Bell, whose funeral was on 10th August. Colin and his wife, Monica, left the village for North Baddesley in 2005 but came back to visit several times in the intervening years. Those who knew him will recall his keen sense of humour and his love of music, both of which were much missed when he moved away.

Our next coffee morning is on Saturday 3rd September in the church from 10.30 a.m. Please do come along for coffee, cake and a chat. At that time I will hopefully be four hours into a 26-mile trek in aid of the Alzheimer's Society, so please save me a cake and I'll see you at the next one!

Clare Durham, St Leonard's Churchwarden

## Very Important: Public Consultation on the future of both our parishes

The formal Consultation about the Diocesan proposals for pastoral reorganisation affecting the benefices of Thorngate; and East with West Wellow and Sherfield English is now live. See [www.churchofengland.org/consultation/Thorngate](http://www.churchofengland.org/consultation/Thorngate) This page gives details of how to comment and/or make representations to the Church Commissioners, and leads to the "Draft Scheme", a pdf file containing all necessary information about the proposals. A paper copy should be available for inspection at both churches. **Please do make your views known in this way by 3rd October 2022, and/or to your own PCC (Wellow before their meeting on 13th September, Sherfield 28th September).** The original documentation contained a number of erroneous web links, not all eliminated at the time of writing. If you unfortunately encounter one of these, **please do not be discouraged from persevering and contributing to the debate.** If you reach an impasse, please ask me, or Lesley Mackay, or a Churchwarden in either Wellow or Sherfield, for help. Paul Newby, *Parish Newsletter Compiler*

## St Margaret's Services and Events

St Margaret's Services, Readers and Sidespersons for September 2022

September 2022	Reader 1	Reader 2	Sidesperson
4th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	John Parr	David Rowe	John Parr
11th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Margery Thomas	Debbie Waldron	Margery Thomas
18th Holy Communion 9.15 a.m.	Brian Scott	Ann Jarrett	Sheila Scott
25th Holy Communion (said) 8.15 a.m. Mattins 9.15 a.m.	Paul Newby	Sue Harder	Paul Newby

**Our Flower Festival will take place in St Margaret's Church over the August Bank Holiday weekend (Sat 27th to Mon 29th). Please come from St Leonard's too – or from wherever you may be! Delicious refreshments available in the Church Rooms.**

If you are able to make a cake and haven't already volunteered, please contact Sheila (324005) or Margery (322794)

The annual "Ride & Stride" for historic churches (<https://hihct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>) is on Saturday 10th September, sadly the same day as Romsey Show.

Meanwhile, every week in the Church Rooms : (Transport can be arranged if needed)

Seasonal Lunch, Tuesday from 12 noon; Coffee and Chat, Thursday from 10.30 a.m.

Dates for your diary: **Saturday 1st October, Harvest Supper; Sunday 2nd October, Harvest Festival Service.** More soon!

## St Leonard's Services and Events

4th September – Holy Communion (Revd James Pitkin)

11th September – Morning Prayer (Clare Durham)

18th September – Family Harvest Festival (Julia Noble)

25th September – Morning Prayer (Julia Noble)

All services are at 11.00 a.m.

Saturday 3rd September – Coffee Morning in Church (Greta & Pam); next on 1st October (Claire W and Caroline)

Wednesday 28th September – PCC Meeting in Church

## Lectionary Listings for use in both Churches

Date	Sunday	Old Testament Reading	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel Reading
4 Sept	Trinity 12/Prop18	Deuteronomy 30.15-20	Psalm 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14.25-33
11 Sept	Trinity 13/Prop19	Exodus 32.7-14	Psalm 51.1-11	1 Timothy 1.12-17	Luke 15.1-10
18 Sept	Trinity 14/Prop20	Amos 8.4-7	Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2.1-7	Luke 16.1-13
25 Sept	Trinity 15/Prop21	Amos 6.1a,4-7	Psalm 146	1 Timothy 6.6-19	Luke 16.19-31

St Margaret's Church, East with West Wellow and St Leonard's Church, Sherfield English

<https://www.sherfieldenglish.org.uk/st-leonards-church>

<https://www.stmargaretswellow.co.uk/>

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